

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.116 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims (Advisory Action at page 4).

By the above amendments, claim 5 has been canceled, and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into claim 1. In a telephone conference with Examiner Shosho of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 12, 2006, the Examiner advised that such amendments would be entered and considered at this stage of prosecution. Entry of the above amendments is proper at least because they place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. See 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

The Patent Office has advised that the §112, first paragraph, rejection and the §102 rejections based on U.S. Patent No. 5,254,425 (*Suzuki et al*) and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0128349 (*Qian et al*) have been withdrawn (Advisory Action at page 2).

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,302,537 (*Kato*). Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Kato* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,465,567 (*Grobe et al*).¹ To expedite prosecution of the present application, the subject matter of claim 5 which the Patent Office

¹ From the Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action, it appears that the §103 rejection based on the combination of *Suzuki et al* or *Qian et al* in view of *Grobe et al* has been withdrawn. In any event, such rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons provided in connection with the rejection based on the combination of *Kato* and *Grobe et al*.

has indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been incorporated into claim 1.

Accordingly, the above rejections are moot in light of such amendment, and withdrawal of such rejections is respectfully requested.

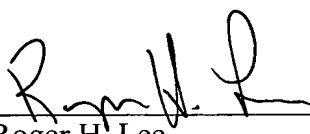
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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